

Please enter the following amended claims:

B3 5/17  
1. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a floor covering comprising the steps of :  
scattering powder, granules or pellets of a thermoplastic material onto a first substrate to  
form a first coating;  
leading the thus coated substrate between a pair of belts of a low pressure double belt  
press;  
applying heat to agglomerate the coating between the belts;  
smoothing the agglomerated coating between a pair of nipping rollers to provide a layer  
of desired thickness; and  
cooling the layer.

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is a fibre matt  
material.

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7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pair of nipping rollers define  
a gap therebetween.

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9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:  
applying a second substrate over the first coating;  
scattering powder, granules or pellets of a thermoplastic material onto the second  
substrate to form a second coating;  
leading the thus coated substrates between a pair of belts of a low pressure double belt  
press;  
applying heat to agglomerate the coatings between the belts;  
smoothing the agglomerated coatings between a pair of nipping rollers to provide a  
layered product of desired thickness; and  
cooling the layered product.

B5 SUB 10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first substrate is defined by  
a lower one of the belts.

B6 SUB 12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second coating is of a  
different material than the first coating.

B7 SUB 17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the basecoat is formed by a  
method including the steps of:  
scattering a basecoat-forming material onto a saturation layer of the substrate;  
leading the substrate between a pair of belts; and  
applying heat to the belts to form a basecoat layer on the saturation layer.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is defined by one  
of the belts.

B8 SUB 21. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising a step, after heating, of  
leading the substrate over a smoothing roller prior to cooling.

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is cooled, after  
agglomerating by leading the pair of belts through a cooling station.

**Please add the following new claims:**

B9 SUB 25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the substrate is a glass fibre matt  
material.

26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate is supported on one  
of the belts as it is led over the smoothing roller.

BS sub 4, 27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising a step of leading the substrate over a smoothing roller, wherein the method includes the step of heating and/or cooling the substrate as it is led over the smoothing roller.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substrate is heated or cooled by heating or cooling the smoothing roller.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substrate is led over an infeed roller to the smoothing roller.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the substrate is led over an outfeed roller from the smoothing roller.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the substrate is heated or cooled as it is led over the infeed and/or outfeed rollers.